



Tennessee Department of Education
Division of Whole Child Supports
Trauma-Informed School
Application Package

Application Deadline: March 31, 2021

Questions regarding this application should be directed to
Janet.Watkins@tn.gov or (615) 478-4027

Overview

The Tennessee Department of Education's Division of Whole Child Supports is offering an exciting opportunity to become a model trauma-informed school. There are currently 73 trauma-informed schools in Tennessee. This opportunity is optional and limited to a select number of schools based on a competitive application process. **Research** shows the benefits of implementing trauma-informed approaches include:

- improved school climate;
- improved attendance;
- decrease in suspensions and expulsions;
- reduction of student behavioral out-bursts and referrals to the office;
- improved teacher sense of satisfaction and safety in being a teacher;
- improved retention of new teachers;
- decrease stress for staff and students;
- reduction in student bullying and harassment;
- reduction in the need for special educational services/classes; and,
- reduced dropout rate.

Your school will receive high quality training, resources, and ongoing support as you implement these practices. When schools approach students through a trauma lens, they are better equipped to provide the educational, social, and personal supports necessary to help students reach their unique potential.

Department Commitments

The department is committed to supporting schools and districts in their work to address trauma. The department will provide the following support to participating schools and districts:

- regional training of trainers;
- curriculum, resources, and materials to all trainers;
- collect and manage all data to include participant information, evaluations, climate surveys, and assessments;
- technical support to all identified schools; and,
- maintain community of practice calls and emails.

School Commitments

Becoming a trauma-informed school requires a willingness to commit to the following:

Year One

- establish a team of three to five persons to attend a two-day “train the trainer” session (either virtual or in person) to include educators, mental health professionals (e.g., school counselors, school psychologists, social workers, school-based mental health professionals), building level administrator, district level representative, and/or building level support staff;
- establish staff development time for the team to deliver training to school faculty and staff;
- complete a trauma informed school assessment;
- participate in the department’s online school climate survey for students in grades 3-12, teachers, and families;
- include information about trauma-informed practices within existing parent engagement activities; and,
- participate in periodic community of practice calls led by the department.

Year Two

- participate in one day of training on trauma-informed practices;
- establish staff development time to deliver training to school faculty and staff;
- complete a Building Strong Brains school assessment tool;
- participate in the department’s online school climate survey for students in grades 3-12, teachers, and families;
- include information about trauma-informed practices within existing parent engagement activities; and,
- participate in periodic community of practice calls led by the department.

Timeline

February 16, 2021	Application open
March 31, 2021	Deadline to submit application
May 10, 2021	Announcement of selected schools

Application Instructions

Click [here](#) to access the online application. You will need to submit your application using the online version. **Please note:** once you begin the application, you will need to complete it in its entirety, or your responses will not be saved. We suggest gathering your responses and completing the PDF version before starting the online application.

Section 1 – School Information

1. Name of School:
2. School District:
3. Region:
 - East
 - First
 - Mid Cumberland
 - Northwest
 - South Central
 - Southeast
 - Southwest
 - Upper Cumberland
4. Administrator Name (principal/assistant principal completing this application):
5. Administrator Title:
6. Administrator Email:
7. Phone:
8. Street Address:
9. City, State, Zip

Section 2 – Narrative

10. Please explain why your school would like to become a trauma-informed school. Include any relevant data.
11. Please provide a description of the work in your school and district around addressing trauma-informed practices. This could include training and programs or initiatives (i.e., restorative practices, PBIS, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Building Strong Brains) that have been or are currently being implemented.
12. How do trauma-informed practices support and/or complement the work and vision of your school?
13. How do trauma-informed practices support and/or complement your LEA's plan?

14. What trends is your school seeing in the discipline data? Do the perceptions/observations match what you see in the data?

15. What data has your school collected and used to support the climate and culture within the school?

Section 3 – Team Members

Please provide information about each team member who will attend the train the trainer. You must have between 3-5 team members with one of those members being an administrator.

16. Team Member 1 Name:

17. Team Member 1 Title:

18. Team Member 1 Email:

19. Is team member 1 required to attend or volunteering to attend?

- Required to attend
- Volunteering to attend

20. Please provide a short rationale about why this individual was selected as a member of the team.

21. Team Member 2 Name:

22. Team Member 2 Title:

23. Team Member 2 Email:

24. Is team member 2 required to attend or volunteering to attend?

- Required to attend
- Volunteering to attend

25. Please provide a short rationale about why this individual was selected as a member of the team.

26. Team Member 3 Name:

27. Team Member 3 Title:

28. Team Member 3 Email:

29. Is team member 3 required to attend or volunteering to attend?

- Required to attend
- Volunteering to attend

30. Please provide a short rationale about why this individual was selected as a member of the team.

31. Team Member 4 Name:

32. Team Member 4 Title:

33. Team Member 4 Email:

34. Is team member 4 required to attend or volunteering to attend?

- Required to attend
- Volunteering to attend

35. Please provide a short rationale about why this individual was selected as a member of the team.

36. Team Member 5 Name:

37. Team Member 5 Title:

38. Team Member 5 Email:

39. Is team member 5 required to attend or volunteering to attend?

- Required to attend
- Volunteering to attend

40. Please provide a short rationale about why this individual was selected as a member of the team.

Section 4 – Assurances

41. My school commits to the following:

- Provide release time for selected team members to participate in the required trainings. Team members must attend a 2-day train the trainer model (two 6-hour days – either virtual or in person)
- Schedule time throughout the year for all faculty and staff to receive training.
- Complete a pre and post Building Strong Brains school assessment tool.
- Participate in the department's online school climate survey for students in grades 3-12, teachers, and families.
- Allow team members to participate in periodic community of practice calls.
- Schedule meeting time throughout the year for the trauma-informed team to meet.

42. By electronically signing below I agree to fully support involvement in this important work.

Administrator signature

First name: _____

Last name: _____

43. Date: _____